

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2126
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
SEPARATE FUND FOR RURAL TELECOMMUNICATION
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has set up a separate fund for rural telecommunication facility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the quantum of amount collected under this fund so far; and
- (d) the extent to which this fund has been utilized?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up under the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003. The scope and manner in which Subsidy support is to be extended are governed by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules 2004. A USO levy is collected from various Telecom Service Providers and deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India. Funds are provided to the USOF through budgetary allocation.

(c) An amount of Rs.6,187/- crore has so far been collected as USO levy till February, 2005.

(d) A cumulative amount of Rs. 1,700/- crore has been allocated by Ministry of Finance since inception of the Fund, which has been fully disbursed.